

DOSE OF REALITY *FOR ELDERS AND FAMILIES*

FACT: OVER 40 PERCENT OF ELDERS HAVE CHRONIC PAIN THAT IS OFTEN TREATED WITH OPIOIDS, SOMETIMES FOR LONG PERIODS OF TIME.

What kind of drugs are prescription painkillers?

Prescription narcotics (“opioids”) are painkillers prescribed by doctors, typically in pill form, to help patients with severe or chronic pain. While their use and benefit is widely debated, one thing is for certain: users are always at risk for addiction.

Some common prescription painkillers include:

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| ● Oxycodone | ● Fentanyl |
| ● Hydrocodone | ● Propoxyphene |
| ● Diphenoxylate | ● Hydromorphone |
| ● Morphine | ● Meperidine |
| ● Codeine | ● Methadone |

What are signs of addiction to watch for?

Here are some signs that could mean a person over 55 who is prescribed opioids is at risk or struggling with addiction:

- Appearing overly drowsy or confused
- Poor balance or unsteady on their feet
- Requesting early refills
- Reporting that their medications have been lost or stolen (particularly if this occurs more than once)
- Poor grooming or disheveled appearance
- Appetite changes
- Mood swings or major personality changes
- Increased isolation
- Demanding narcotic drugs at doctor visits
- Apparent doctor shopping



DOSE OF REALITY
PREVENT PRESCRIPTION PAINKILLER ABUSE IN WISCONSIN.

Funded also in part by Marshfield Clinic Health System, Northwoods Coalition, Alliance for Wisconsin Youth.

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Learn more at:
DoseOfRealityWI.gov

A message from Wisconsin Department of Justice, Brad Schimel, Attorney General, and the Wisconsin Department of Health Services



Wisconsin
Department of Health Services

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FACT: MORE THAN 70% OF PEOPLE WHO ABUSE PRESCRIPTION PAINKILLERS GET THEM THROUGH FAMILY OR FRIENDS.



What elders and families can do:

- Understand the risk factors for abuse of painkillers: improper use, depression, anxiety, and generational trauma
- Talk with the elders under your care about the risks and dangers of prescription painkillers, especially opioids and narcotics
- Let elders know that you stand by them and offer support
- Respect our elders and their medications - it is illegal to share or steal prescriptions
- Store any prescription painkillers and other medications in a locked storage box, drawer, or cabinet to limit access
- Do not keep unused or unwanted prescriptions; dispose of them at a permanent drug drop box or at a Drug Take Back event
- Watch for signs of addiction
- Visit DoseOfRealityWi.gov for more information and links to resources



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